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16 JAN 13 2000 Okay, our next speaker is Reinard Knutsen.

17 MR. KNUTSEN: Good evening, everybody. I'm
18 really sad to see that a lot of the new faces which I was
19 hoping to talk to have already left, and so most of the
20 people remaining here have heard my comments quite a few
21 times. So I am going to say a few things, but again, I'm
22 sorry to see that most of the public who aren't involved,
23 aren't employed by the nuclear industry have already left.

24 I think I do have to reiterate one more time
1 25 that I think everybody involved in this process, the

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1 Department of Energy and the nuclear physicists and the
2 Nuclear Energy Department should be ashamed of yourselves,
3 and I'm outraged that I have to come and testify about
4 such a vitally flawed Draft Environmental Impact
5 Statement. And I think that this process, Yucca
6 Mountain -- work at Yucca Mountain should be stopped and
7 this process should be started over again in a more
8 reasonably -- reasonably sane manner.

2 9 I've heard some comments tonight that nuclear
10 energy is vital to our lifestyles in the United States.
11 Nuclear energy produces 20 percent of our current energy
12 consumption. My understanding is that with the current
13 grid system in place, we lose automatically 10 percent of

14 all electricity generated through the grid system.

15 I don't have the name of the report, but about
16 five years ago there was a Canadian environmental company
17 that produced a report about energy consumption in North
18 America, and according to this report five years ago, that
19 there were current technologies available to use
20 energy-efficient products and energy-efficient building
21 methods which would cut our energy consumption down by 35
22 to 40 percent. So clearly if we employed energy-efficient
23 products and renewable energy resources, we clearly do not
24 need not only nuclear energy, but we don't need most coal
25 energy.

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1 And I have to say for the record that I'm also
2 against most all fossil fueled -- fossil energy. I'm
3 sorry. For the past week I've been involved in this
4 process. I've only had 20 hours of sleep in the past
5 week, so I'm running on some short brain cells here, and I
6 have a long drive to San Francisco beginning tonight as
7 soon as this ends.

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8 So I think that the facts are that we clearly do
9 not need nuclear energy. There are viable alternatives.
10 The main thing is that we as an American society need to
11 change our lifestyle. There is no reason why we need to

12 consume the amount of electricity that we do use.

13 Another comment. I'm going to be jumping a
14 little bit back and forth because I didn't want to say the
15 same thing over and over again. In my work as a volunteer
16 for the antinuclear and environmental justice
17 organization, I work for a Shundahai network, I work with
18 members of -- veterans who were involved in the above
19 ground atomic testing. I work with the native people who
20 are involved in the uranium mining and the native people
21 who are involved in the siting of nuclear waste dumps on
22 their land. And I've worked with the general public with
23 whistle blowers. I've been to two conferences this past
24 year where I met with and talked with whistle blowers who
25 were fired from their job with the nuclear industry

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1 because they decided to tell the truth to the American
2 people. And they suffered by losing their job, because
3 the Nuclear Energy Department wants to protect itself and
4 to maintain the lies that are being told. And so I work
5 with these people. I know the human face of the nuclear
6 dilemma that's going on.

4 7 So I just wanted to make that point. Somebody
8 else mentioned that we need to be reprocessing nuclear
9 fuel. Again, I don't have the facts before me, but

10 there's the Sheffield nuclear processing plant in Britain,
11 or Scotland I think it is, and there's also a nuclear
12 processing plant in France which has over three thousand
13 times the background radiation levels. The processing
14 plant in France, they've made a total ban on fishing
15 anywhere near that region -- it's on the coast of
16 France -- because the radiation levels are so -- are so
17 bad there, the contamination is so bad.

18 Reprocessing only adds to the problem. It does
19 not solve the problem. The only way that we're going to
20 solve the problem is stopping nuclear waste production and
21 taking the time to really seriously look at how we're
22 going to deal with the mess that we've created.

5 23 Sorry, I forgot your name, but the lady right
24 before me was talking about how the past 17 years is a
25 long time and that we've taken the time it needs to study

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1 and that we should go ahead and move forward with Yucca
2 Mountain. In my mind, dealing with nuclear materials
3 which are going to be dangerous for hundreds of thousands
4 of years, 17 years is not enough. Maybe 100 years might
5 be enough to study the problem and then to take some
6 viable action, but certainly 17 years is a rush. And
7 Yucca Mountain is a bad idea, and we are rushing into a

8 bad idea.

9 And I think that we need to slow down, do some
10 viable, above ground, monitored, retrievable storages at
11 or very close to the nuclear sites where the material is
12 right now. There are definitely some sites where the
13 material needs to be moved off.

14 But there's a plant in Minnesota, the Prairie
15 Island plant is built on an island in the middle of the
16 river. How stupid can that be? The stupidity of the
17 people who started this mess to begin with is outrageous.

6 18 And I have to say personally that I believe in the next 50
19 years or so the people involved in this process, and
20 that's all of you or most of you in this room, hopefully
21 will be held accountable for your actions for your crimes
22 against humanity and your crimes against nature.

7 23 I've heard the DOE say that we have no legal
24 requirement to look at viable alternatives, but I think
25 that there is a difference between having a moral

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1 requirement and having a legal requirement. I think the
2 moral requirement is that you present to the public all
3 viable alternatives, and this DEIS does not even come
4 close to doing that.

8 5 I also believe there's a moral requirement that

6 at least one hearing in every state that's affected by
7 this plan to transport nuclear waste to Yucca Mountain, at
8 least one hearing in every state has to be held and there
9 has to be good public outreach. Somebody, one of the
10 Department of Energy officials in Las Vegas said that the
11 total cost for Yucca Mountain would be about 30 billion
12 dollars. Out of 30 billion dollars there has to be the
13 money available to involve the public in this process.
14 Because if you do not involve the public, then you are
15 just bulldozing over, you know, you're just bulldozing
16 ahead. You don't even want the public participation.
17 That is clear by this process.

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18 Finally, I'd like just to read a prepared
19 document. Since you all know my stand on the issue, I'd
20 like to read a short prepared document by the Western
21 Shoshone National Council. The Western Shoshone National
22 Council is the governing body of the Western Shoshone
23 Nation, which is the true stewards of this land of Yucca
24 Mountain. And the Western Shoshone National Council in
25 December of 1995 passed a resolution that said -- that

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1 created a nuclear free zone in their country, which is
2 called Newe Sogobia. That's the name of their country.
3 And Yucca Mountain is within the boundaries of Newe

4 Sogobia I'd like to read this. It's just going to take
5 about two minutes, and then we'll be done.

6 "WHEREAS, the people of the Western Shoshone
7 Nation find the presence of radioactive materials, nuclear
8 power facilities and nuclear weapons facilities within the
9 lands, the watershed or airshed of the lands of the
10 Western Shoshone Nation, known in the Shoshone language as
11 Newe Sogobia, as set forth in the Treaty of Ruby Valley of
12 1863, to be in conflict with the maintenance of the
13 community's economic well-being, health and general
14 welfare; and

15 "WHEREAS, Nuclear weapons testing by the United
16 States Government on Western Shoshone lands, in direct
17 conflict with the Western Shoshone National Council law
18 and policy, has left portions of Newe Sogobia scarred and
19 permanently contaminated with radiation; and

20 "WHEREAS, The aforementioned weapons testing by
21 the United States Government on Western Shoshone lands has
22 already caused widespread cancer, bringing illness and
23 death to Western Shoshone, members of other Indian
24 nations, and the non-Indian people of the Great Basin
25 region; and

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1 "WHEREAS, The United States Government continues

2 to contaminate Western Shoshone lands at the Nevada Test
3 Site by importing and dumping radioactively --"

4 MR. BROWN: If you can slow down just a little
5 for the reporter.

6 MR. KNUTSEN: I'm sorry. Thanks.

7 "WHEREAS, The United States Government continues
8 to contaminate Western Shoshone lands at the Nevada Test
9 Site by importing and dumping radioactively and chemically
10 contaminated soil and other waste products; and

11 "WHEREAS, The United States Geological Survey
12 has found that the aquifer under the radioactive waste
13 dump site is about to become contaminated with long-lived
14 radionuclides, endangering drinking water on Western
15 Shoshone lands; and

16 "WHEREAS, The government of the United States,
17 against the expressed wishes of the Western Shoshone
18 National Council, is proposing to store highly-irradiated
19 fuel from commercial nuclear power plants, which will
20 remain deadly for hundreds of thousands of years at Yucca
21 Mountain within Western Shoshone lands; and

22 "WHEREAS, A high volume of truck transportation
23 of radioactive wastes can be expected through the Western
24 Shoshone Nation's lands and the surrounding region,
25 increasing the likelihood of an accident and the rapid

1 dispersal to the environment of deadly, long-lived
2 radioactive wastes; and

3 "WHEREAS, The presence of radioactive waste
4 dumps in the region, and the publicity surrounding it,
5 will severely harm the economy of the Western Shoshone and
6 neighboring peoples; and

7 "WHEREAS, Over 4,500 local communities
8 throughout the world, 25 nations, and the regions of the
9 Antarctic, Latin America and the South Pacific have been
10 declared nuclear free zones; and

11 "WHEREAS, The National Council of the Western
12 Shoshone encourages the development of clean, renewable
13 energy resources in order to create jobs that maintain the
14 traditional Native American values of caretaking and
15 balance with natural creation; and

16 "WHEREAS, The National Council of the Western
17 Shoshone encourages research into radioactive waste
18 neutralization techniques and demands the stabilization
19 and/or cleanup, if possible, of existing radioactive
20 wastes on the lands of the Western Shoshone Nation;

21 "NOW, THEREFORE be it ordained by the Western
22 Shoshone National Council that the following declaration
23 be added to and made a part of the laws of the Western
24 Shoshone Nation:

25 "Nuclear free zone. For the purposes of this

1 article, the following definitions apply."

2 I'm going to jump a little bit. The prohibition
3 of storage, use or disposal of radioactive materials; the
4 prohibition of nuclear weapons work; the prohibition of
5 nuclear reactors; the prohibition of uranium and milling;
6 the prohibition of migration of radioactive materials.

7 "The Western Shoshone National Council shall
8 post and maintain appropriate signs at all recognized
9 entrances to the lands of the Western Shoshone Nation, at
10 entrances to the Yucca Mountain facility and the Nevada
11 Nuclear Test Site, and the National Council office in
12 Cactus Springs, proclaiming the Western Shoshone Nation's
13 status as a nuclear free zone. "

10 14 And in closing, coming from the state of Nevada,
15 I do believe the state of Nevada has laws that prohibit
16 the contamination of any groundwater with radioactive
17 nuclides, and these laws have already been broken by the
18 Nevada Test Site, and I believe that these laws will be
19 broken by the Yucca Mountain nuclear waste dump if this
20 goes into effect.

11 21 And so once again I demand that all work at
22 Yucca Mountain be ceased and that the United States
23 re-look at its entire nuclear policy and begin a phase-out
24 of nuclear energy and investment into renewable resources
25 and on-site monitored retrievable storage until a sane and

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1 safe method can be found to deal with the radioactive
2 wastes that are already in place, and we are moving way
3 too fast and we just need to slow down. Thank you.